



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 1, 2008

S. 3160

National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on June 24, 2008*

SUMMARY

S. 3160 would authorize funding for the national sea grant program, which is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that spending for the program from those appropriations would total \$445 million over the 2009-2013 period. An additional \$230 million would be spent after 2013, including \$125 million authorized to be appropriated for 2014. Enacting S. 3160 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 3160 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 3160 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2009-
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Authorization Level	100	105	110	115	120	550
Estimated Outlays	30	82	106	111	116	445

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

S. 3160 would authorize the appropriation of \$675 million, including \$550 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$125 million for fiscal year 2014, for the national sea grant program. Those amounts would be used by NOAA for grants, fellowships, and related administrative functions under the program. For this estimate, CBO assumes that all amounts authorized by S. 3160 will be appropriated near the start of each fiscal year and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the sea grants program. In 2008, \$57 million was appropriated for this program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 3160 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit public universities by reauthorizing the national sea grant college program, which provides grants to improve marine resource conservation, management, and utilization. Any costs state, local, or tribal governments might incur, including matching funds, would result from complying with conditions of aid.

PREVIOUS ESTIMATE

On May 6, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 5618, the National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act of 2008 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 30, 2008. On June 27, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 5618 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology on June 25, 2008. Both of those versions of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$389 million over the 2009-2013 period and \$100 million in 2004, while S. 3160 would authorize the appropriation of \$550 million and \$125 million respectively over the same periods.

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